

# November 2018 Newsletter

## Madison Avenue Baptist Church

1703 E. Laurel Street, Goldsboro, NC 27534; 919-734-3761

### November Birthdays:

2	Aaron Williford	17	Ann Compton
6	Naomi Richardson	21	Melda Lamm
6	Jewell Grantham	23	Hilda Strider
6	Teresa Williford	27	Jean Williford
10	Susan Edwards		

### November Calendar of Events:

4 (Sun)	Church Council, 2:00pm
7 (Wed)	Covered Dish Supper
11 (Sun)	Baptist Men and Women Breakfast, 8:00am
18 (Sun)	Community Thanksgiving Service, St. Luke UMC at 6:30pm
20 (Tue)	Deacon's Meeting-7:00pm
21 (Wed)	No Meal or Program
22 (Thu)	Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed

## Deacon Corner

**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:** We at Madison have two opportunities to look outward and help others beyond our own church family. Last year you enthusiastically supported the **Samaritan Purse's Christmas Shoe Box Ministry**, and we encourage you to do so again. Boxes are available on the stage in the fellowship hall. You are invited to pick up a box, fill it and return it to the church by Sunday, November 11. Each box contains a slip with instructions and can be filled for a boy or a girl, ages 2 to 4, 5 to 9, or 10 to 14. The other opportunity is making a donation to **Kennedy Home**, located between LaGrange and Kinston, which received extensive damage during Hurricane Florence. Make your check payable to **NC Baptist Children's Homes** and designate for **Kennedy Home**. Turn the donation in to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday.

**PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE:** Our Pastor Search Committee is actively engaged in seeking God's man to lead our church. The committee currently is in the process of talking with individuals, one person at a time, based on the committee's priority listing. If number one should happen to be the one to whom the call is extended and the one who accepts the call, there would be no talk with number two, etc. On the contrary, if number one is not God's man for our church, the committee will then talk with number two. The process for calling a pastor is by design a slow and meticulous process. I trust that all of us are trusting and patient as our committee continues its work. The best thing that we can do is to continue to pray for the committee and for God's will for our church.

**OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:** It is tremendously important that all of us continue our regular giving during our interim period. We need very much to build as large a reserve as possible. The only reason that we have been able to meet our current needs and build a small reserve during the interim is because we are no longer paying full time pay for a pastor, music minister, and no pay for an organist. Once a pastor is called, we will require again a significant increase in our church budget and our need to support the increased budget with our giving. Hopefully, once a permanent pastor is on board, our Personnel Committee will be able to secure a part-time music director/organist, which again will mean an increase in our budget. We hope to grow both in numbers and in

renewed spiritual and stewardship commitment, creating the need for a part-time children's and youth minister. We have every reason to be optimistic about the future of our church as we continue to fellowship and worship together.

**THANKSGIVING SERVICE:** St. Luke UMC will host the Thanksgiving service for our two churches on Sunday evening, November 18, at 6:30. Please plan your schedule to be present for this special service. We all have so very much to be thankful for, and the very least we can do is to gather together as two fellowships of believers and offer special thanks to our God for the multitude of blessings that He has so richly bestowed upon us.

**THE REGULAR ABSENCE OF A CHOIR:** We are all concerned that we no longer, at present, have a regular church choir offering anthems and/or special music during worship on Sunday mornings. There is one simple explanation for this: we no longer have a sufficient number of individuals who are committed to sing in the choir. This is especially true with our women. For a choir to be able to offer worship specials, rehearsals are necessary. The rehearsal attempts were only drawing two or three committed women for our rehearsals. Our men would usually turn out in numbers of four to six for rehearsals. All we need to do to change this is to volunteer to be a part of the choir and commit to be at rehearsals. Edwin, officially, is retired; however, he has agreed to try as best he can to plan music for our worship services whether with men's choruses, an occasional solo, instrumentalists or some other special music.

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND/OR CANCELATIONS:** In view of Thanksgiving on November 22, there will be no meal or Wednesday evening Bible study on November 21. Hopefully we will all attend the Thanksgiving service hosted by St. Luke UMC on Sunday evening, November 18 at 6:30.

**ADVENT SEASON:** The Advent Season begins on Sunday, December 2, a little later than in some years. Since we are worshipping in the fellowship hall, we are planning to have the Christmas Tree with its innumerable spiritually significant ornaments on display during Advent on the fellowship hall stage.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER:** This event is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 13, at 6:30. This will again be a covered dish dinner with two meats prepared by our Hospitality Committee. Covered dishes should include only salads, vegetables, and desserts. Please plan to participate in this evening of good food and great Christmas fellowship. Sign-ups will be requested in due time.

**OLD TIMEY CHRISTMAS PARTY:** The traditional Old Timey Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday evening, December 19 at six o'clock. This will feature hot dogs and the trimmings, cookies, and hot chocolate, with a program of carols, the Christmas Story, and great fellowship.

**CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE:** The Church Council, at its October meeting, discussed where to hold the service and concluded that, based on attendance the past two years, the fellowship hall can easily accommodate the number attending. This will entail removing the tables and setting up chairs for the service. This service is usually our best attended worship service during the year, but based on attendance during the past couple of years, it is believed that the fellowship hall will be more appropriate for the number attending. If you disagree with this plan and would be willing to help with some arrangements and decorations in the sanctuary, please let deacon chair I. K. Williamson know.

*I. K. Williamson, Diaconate Chair*

**Congratulations** to Ralph and Betty Edwards on the birth of their new grandson, Henry Alexander Edwards, born on October 24. Proud parents are Matthew and Danielle Edwards and they reside in Raleigh.

**A Thank You Note** has been received from all staff of Kitty Askins (3HC) and is posted on the bulletin board.

**Memorials made during month of September in memory of:** Dick Manley and Norma S. King.

## A Bit of Madison History

**1987:** The Sanctuary Choir, under the direction of Minister of Music Diana Greene, presented the Christmas cantata, *The Many Moods of Christmas* by Robert Shaw. The choir was accompanied by an ensemble from the North Carolina Symphony. This was presented during Morning Worship on December 13, 1987.

**2008: Instrumental Ensemble** -What previously has been a brass and woodwind ensemble became a “mini orchestra” with the addition of a flutist, Sara McIntire, and a violinist, Tristan McIntire, an Air Force couple who recently joined Madison Avenue and the Sanctuary Choir. Sara also is an accomplished pianist, and the church has been blessed with both her piano accompaniment as well as Tristan’s and her violin duets.

## Pastor’s Article for November

Many times we say, “God bless America,” in our conversations. I guess we probably mean that statement as a petition to God, a prayer. Perhaps we are saying “God, we ask that you bless our country and all who are in it.” That’s a good prayer to pray. Perhaps we are saying, “God, You have blessed America and we thank You so much for your blessings. May You continue to bless us.” In any case God has blessed this nation. Two events this month indicate this.

The first is Thanksgiving Day, November 22. This is a national holiday in which we thank God for His many blessings to our nation. Many people in the early days of our country came here for religious reasons. They wanted to worship and serve God as their conscience allowed. We thank God for the religious freedom we have today because of the founding of our country. God has blessed us.

Second, on November 6, we have a chance to exercise our right to vote. Our Founding Fathers set up a government in which we would have the right to pick those to represent us in all levels of government, from the local community to the national level. We get to choose the leaders of our country. Not every nation can say that. Our Founding Fathers were wise in the way in which they set up our government. God has blessed us.

Now it’s our turn. We can pass God’s blessings on today and to future generations by participating prayerfully in these two great events. Every day, but especially on Thanksgiving Day, let us thank God for His blessings – materially and spiritually. On Tuesday, November 6, we can vote for the candidates that we see are most qualified and represent our values. That’s a great blessing. Let’s exercise that blessing.

Indeed, God has blessed America and continues to bless America. May you and I continue to be conduits in which God’s blessings flow to others, in this country and around the world. God bless America.

*Pastor Randy*

## Notes from October 24 Church Conference

The following were approved to serve on committees in the coming year:

Finance Committee- Don Westover

Nominating Committee- Harriet Walton and Donnie Frederick

## Senior Adult News

Fourteen of our seniors had a great trip to Kentucky and Ohio in October. Included was a visit to The Ark Encounter in Kentucky and the rest of the week was spent in the Amish/Mennonite country of Ohio. We had a great visit to the **58:12 Rescue** mission and delivered the supplies you helped collect. God blessed us with beautiful weather and a safe trip, while most of you were enduring the wrath of Hurricane Florence.

Our seniors will join with other seniors in our association for two upcoming events:

November 8 (Thu): day trip to Historic Edenton

December 8 (Sat): day trip to Lake Mattamuskeet for Swan Days

Our November Very Special People fellowship meeting will be on Monday, November 29, at K&W.